Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1, 2001 TO OCTOBER 5, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	August			The value of building permits in Canada declined 4.4% in August, halting a series of four straight monthly increases, and is up 11.2% on a year-to-date basis. The value of non-residential permits fell by 11.9%, while residential permits increased by 2.5%. Alberta's monthly 18.7% increase in building permits was led by increases in both residential (11.6%), and non-residential (28.4%) sectors, and had the second largest monthly increase among provinces behind Prince Edward Island (138%). On a year-to-date basis, building permits are up 8.3% in Alberta. The value of building permits increased 50.6% in Edmonton and 2.1% in Calgary in August.
Alberta	566.7	18.7%	0.7%	
Canada	3,253.5	-4.4%	-11.4%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	August 138.8	-0.3%	-4.5%	Prices of raw materials declined 4.5% in August from a year ago. The decline was mostly due to decreased prices of non-ferrous metals (-14%), wood (-12.8%) and mineral fuels (-6.7%). Vegetable products (9.8%) and animal products (6.0%) experienced increases.
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	August 128.8	0.0%	0.9%	Manufacturers' prices, as measured by the industrial product price index (IPPI), grew 0.9% from August 2000 to August 2001 after a similar year-over-year gain of 0.9% in July. Price increases for lumber (11.2%), motor vehicles (3.9%) and meat products (3.8%) were the major contributors to the annual rise. Petroleum and coal product prices declined 5.0% from a year ago. If petroleum and coal product prices were excluded, the IPPI would have gone up 1.3% instead of 0.9%.